Worked in Chiffons by the Autocrats of Fashion.

## THREE NOTEWORTHY FROCKS.

They Illustrate the Modes and Make Women Wonder. at.

Gergeousness Not the Keynote, but Subtle Elegance, Exquisite Handwork, Beauty of Line and Harmony of Color-Gowns All A-froth With Lace and Weighed Down by Hand Embroideries -Richness Wrought in Ivory Tones-The Uses of Grays-Venturesome Color Schemes of Great Paris Dressmakers.

This is to be a story of miracles-a tale of chiffons which may be regarded by the average woman with a certain detached interest accorded to the unattainable by the philosophically inclined. Only the privileged few regard models from the great Parisian makers with a view to acquiring any of them. Their prices are prohibi-

But on the same principle that a cat may look at a king, a woman with a five dollar a week income may study an \$800 frock from Beer or Paquin and her chances of entertainment in the occupation are greater than those of the cat in the presence of

Of course she can never own a gown all a-froth with lace and weighed down by hand embroideries and cunningly draped by an artist hand; but she can find fashion ats in the Beer creation which in humble nitation may give a note of originality to her next home made frock and from her



study of the Paquin frock she may gain wisdom that will help her to choose her next inexpensive ready made costume cannily.

Presumably reflections of this sort brought out a large majority of the women who attended the opening of the costume department in a lower Broadway house last week. A host of dressmakers swelled the throng, and in the crowd were hundreds of women who could afford to buy "an they would

One might write a tale of the women rather than a tale of the frocks. They offered most excellent copy, but this is a fashion page, and so we come around once more to the matter of miracles.

The buyer who showed us before opening day the best of the frocks imported for the opening, declared that never before in this country had so many beautiful and costly French gowns been brought together n one collection. The statement had a familiar ring and there was a faint but polite scepticism in our smile, but as box after box was opened and model after model each more beautiful and more elaborate than the last, emerged from the tissue paper wrappings, scepticism metted away nto enthusiastic indorsement. The showing was a marvellous one.

Possibly the triumphant successes of the artist dressmakers will not appeal to all women this senson, but for the critic who lower beauty of line exquisite hand work. quiet harmony of color, the models of this autumn have an unusual charm. Gorusness is not the keynote; the specular has been more prominent in earlier seasons, but in point of harmonious and subtle elegance the loveliest of the new frocks take rank as sartorial miracles and we accord them their due.

The three models of the large central youp were in our opinion the loveliest of the collection, but that of course is a mere matter of taste, and many of the en who viewed the freelts on opening exclaimed wonderingly at the prices



RECREASE CORPUSE, IN PRANCES.

fixed to these three fraction and gave their raise la gaver and more agreeis. e models Expert opinion toos, however, with us and oretain; well known women and downmakers as Well instea in their own spince ngiv biolock out times there makels to which we had already according the most

minente place. The third was made by a provide house countries upon being drawn through ma- and toxice. seculty for the Bengines firm that imariod d and in it were inverporated details in connection with other band embroidery

on onversal meson of the module.

A TALE OF MIRACLES cloth princesse gown. The very name richness of this ivory gown, with its gleampenditure. Americans are less numerous among the patrons of the house than are the smart English and Continental sets, but several prominent society women of New York are dressed almost exclusively by La Ferrière, and to those who do not know the firm well this one model should carry

We have called the material écru cloth, but t is hardly écru-rather a warm ivory. The foundation of the gown is of princesse form, superlatively well cut and taking on clinging curves and folds of the most artfully simple description.

Sleeves and guimpe are of the finest baby Irish lace without other trimming or elaboration and the whole cachet of the gown, aside from its cut, lies in the flat surplice drapery which starts from each shoulder, crosses slightly at the waist line exhausted and the filling of orders is be- another gray net of semi-empire design

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Omno

ing self-tone embroidery and the deep knotted self-tone fringe trimming the skirt sides, but any one who knows the value of handwork will be prepared for the price mark on the show card and will feel that, as frock prices go, the buyer of this model will have her money's worth.

The reckless profusion of hand embroidery is to the initiated the most impressive thing about these imported gowns and the thing moreover that makes domestic reproduction of the models almost lapossible. We have a few good embroiderers, but only in Paris could the designers find many needlewomen capable of carrying out the complicated and ambitious ideas which they put forward with apparently no

thought of labor and expense. Such a mania is hand embroidery this season that even Parisian resources are

smoke gray. The sleeveless coat, full, graceful, rich with embroidery, is of Rumanian design, a note due to a Rumanian play which has achieved great popularity in Vienna and whose costumes have appealed to the genius of the designers and introduced a Rumanian suggestion into some of the

marines, there is no note of color save the

handsomest of the season's cloaks. Maurice Mayer, the maker of this gray costume, is famous for his creations nets and laces, and is represented in this imported group of models by several charming and elaborate gowns in white, but no one of them ranks with the gray net.

That gray is beloved by all of the great men this season is evident from the constant recurrence of this color among the best models. Worthy to rank with the three frocks of the large picture was

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mulberry but a softer, lighter shade of similar character. This coat has a band of gray cloth bordering all its edges and gray braid and braid ornaments also enter into the trimming scheme.

Between the straight coat fronts, which leave only a narrow opening from collar to coat bottom, one catches a glimpse of a cloth waistcoat in a queer soft dull rose tone buttoning with gray crocheted buttons. The gray, the purplish velvet and the unusual rose all harmonize perfectly, but the slightest deviation from the shades would bring disaster. #

Paquin delights in these venturesome color schemes and skates upon the thin ice of color harmony with a recklessness born of masterly self-confidence, a confidence usually justified by results.

He has among the frocks which furnished the theme for our story another picturesque

S DUXI

Gray is repeated even more frequently in trimming than in the frock materials and successfully used in combinations that are distinctly unusual, but are thoroughly justified by their effects. For instance, Elise Poret has designed a charming frock, which figures among the small cuts, and is in a chiffon broadcloth of a green that mey perhaps be best described as reseda, though it has a hint more of blue or gray

by three narrow folds of velvet.

But the characteristic feature of the gown is the heavy hand embroidery in soft gray which beautifies the cloth of the bod-



PINK SILK AND LACE.

rowest imaginable gray ribbon quilled along the edges of all the velvet bands, and

in the dull silver and gray enamel buttons.

Then there is a Paquin costume of bronze green broadcloth, which is also reproduced among the pictures on this page, and whose Directoire redingote is trimmed in braid and immense braid fastenings of black and gray braid and has a double collar of black satin falling over gray velvet.

Browns and grays are mingled frequently throughout all the province of imported chiffons, and charming effects are obtained in these combinations because of the exquisite and varied shadings now produced in the two colors. Browns with a dash of gray in them and grays with a touch of brown in them are many, and the two colors really meet in such shades as taupe (mole), smoke gray, antelope gray, &c.

skilful handling and a color sense amount ing to genius, but when successful is a very satisfactory thing. One marvellously beautiful gown was brought over last month by one New York merchant for a wealthy customer and was of taupe net embroidered lavishly in grays and browns, dull silver and dull gold, and trimmed in taupe or mole

The idea of the pekin velvet and silk natching the costume in color is popular with the most famous Parisian designers of



noting, for, though the material is exempire, it requires little or the trimming. as hop been said before, and it is distinctly

Appopos of tailored continues, the name of Francis unturally comes to much and the Francis costumes this essent are very coal of broate green velves possely one attractive. The short square filters and artist in less and much mirrorly be expect should call it, rather, a light soft silve grass, short fingire coats reaching only to the by an inferior decomance, can with the trimmed in a luminous and made waisting are favorites with him and he original model at hims for quick, or outsits, opinions of dult gold, duit alver and very has one popular model which is alrestored here and which carried out in Richelina red broasiciotis, a extremely clim though a

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inth Av. at gret St.

the cloth with mere hairline pipings of black and dull gold braid, the gold hardly

in it than one finds in reseda.

A simple skirt of cloth trimmed in bands of velvet of the same shade is surmounted by a bodice of cloth with velvet sleeves and what might be called a tucker of the velvet below a shallow guimpe of cream net and lace. The short velvet sleeve falls over a close fitting inner cuff of lace held



The combining of the two colors demands

Going back for a moment to the bronze green Paquin model, the coat and skirt were accompanied by a simple but chie little blouse of bronze green pokin vefvet and satin. The striped stuff needed no trimming, but was cut down to show a dainty lingerie chemisette finely tucked and finished with hemstitched frills.

CLOTH AND CHRORED VALUE.

a possilar astrona which redemin is. Vin-circular shirt, fitted by true tucks over the

The little coat, of the blouse Eton variety in general character, has much originality of cut and treatment in its draped folds,

its long shoulder and sleeve cap cut in one, turned back and faced with gray velvet. (gray again!) its gray velvet collar and its The sleeve, too, is good, being made of net and lace with a band of cloth set on the bottom just where the puff is shirred full into the cuff, and a cuff of lace into which are let discs of cloth.

The coat with long shoulder cut in one with an outer sleeve, or with a drapery or trimming falling low off the shoulder in lieu of outer sleeve or sleeve cap, is a conspicuous feature of the season's models and contrasting sleeves of net, lace, velvet or, more rarely, silk are much in evidence. Sleeves of heavy net are frequently used with cloth or velvet bodices of the same

with cloth or velvet bodices of the same color, the net entering also into the guimpe, although there is always cream net or lace next the face.

Possibly as a concession to this long shoulder line and the shoulder drapery over contrasting sleeves V shapedopenings are very popular in bodices. Flat drapery starting on the shoulders either crosses in surplice fashion very low in front or ends without crossing at the upper edge of a girdle. The V opening between is filled in in many ways—with heavy embroidery velvet or chiffon or net tucker arrangement dec., and sometimes by a continuation of the sheer collar and guimpe, though more often a heavier effect is secured below a shallow cream transparent guimpe.

cream transparent guimpe.

The little gumipes in many of the most elaborate frocks are fashioned with clever simplicity from a fine cream net adjusted perfectly by tiny pinched up tucks and



BRONZE GREEN CLOTH, BY PAGEIN

shirrings and trimmed with lace only at the

shirrings and trimmed with lace only at the collar. The under cuffs and sleeves are also of the net with lace finish, but there are of course many models, especially in the heavier materials, which have guimpes and under sleeves of handsome lace.

A guimpe of net finished by several lines of the finest soutache around the collar, top, the ends interlacing in front, and similar soutache arrangement at the collar, top, the ends interlacing in front, and similar soutache arrangement at the collar, top, the ends interlacing in front, and similar soutache arrangement at the collar has or just below appears upon one experienced supported to the collar of the collar front of the disverty adjusted net guimpes has a line of tiny embroidered flowers around the collar top and running down in a vin front to the base of the collar, where a little cluster of dangles made from soft silk in the shades of the embroidery falls over the net guimpe. It is in little touches of this sort that the French are peculiarly happy and such details are often the most useful items one can collect in studying an exhibit

and such details are often the most useful items one can collect in studying an exhibit of Parisian dressmining.

Just a word of comment upon two of the most charming creations among all the frocks displayed at the recent opening. One model to some extent speaks for itself in the sketch which our artist has made for the large group, but it is only the grace of line which is in evidence there. The picturesque steeve of a type familiar among the stunning French evening cleaks, but modified and adapted here to frock purposes, is altogether delightful, as are nil the simple lines of the frock, but to appreciate the model one must have seen the marvellous handwrought bands of filet net and embroidity with which the soft shimmering white marguisette is trimmed—such

and embroiders with which the soft shimmering white marginisette is trimmed-sized intrended, beautiful statchery of heavy white flows sile, with threads of gold glinting here and there. Narrow little frills of gold here enter into the bodice trimming.

And the house freek of our sketch a Drecoll madel Any woman with a soul and to chiffons that would not cover must be something less than feminine.

It is an intensely, deliciously feminine little freek, a bloom and skipt entirely formatical to creamy valencienies, set to beautiful creamy valencientes, set cogether by hand and laid over soft park
chiffon and pain mainum. And over the a
loose, fulling half length coat of the softent
park satin, bordered by a three such bard
of silk chiffon velvet in delicate layerder,
the line between satin and velvet helder,
we a task of hand confused by the form

by a trait of band embrodered flower and vine in course white said.

The proof. Why talk of the price? One is grainful for such a thing even if one can not have it. Truly this is a day of sastories



RUMANIAN COAT BY MAURICE MEYER AND A BEAUTIFUL DRESS OF WHITE MARQUISETTE WITH HEAVY LACE EMBROIDERED WITH GOLD. the abort front in papel (ashion.

trimming is in exactly the chade of the Europe can not keep the thing going in-liab and is of beave not almost entirely. covered with a superis bold emissosines. ione in the very narrow lustre braid match-

This gleaning, salky braid gives an enbraidery heavier than any from also yet is on soil, morrow, that and supple that at a last their suggests the in-chies of the distance one can harrily classify it and is madelan extremely beavy flow. Figures inter- electricist coal- and the beaut, such graymakers are using this lastre embracings, not a reached down with wonderful being taxiship and authing in the majors a trimming is more effective. It is almost interial less transparent, and it is offer used-

The same arrangement is introduced in looking over this one group of models. If the back, where handsome stress organizations this is a same of what the great anglers. The not was embrosized all over by hold the deapers at the waist line. This are turning but all the embroiderees of hand, in excitant on the bottom of the

Take, for manuple, the grad net gown of the central cut. This madel was meretroughly in these columns last week, but the weetch will give a listter idea than a verbal discription could not seen the sketch

inclined to believe the effect obtained by the additionable gray such frome and contemplation in the same gray. Margin of

Create lices forms the governors and Buishes. the gilrow slower of volves and embrosizered winth; the coat, a mild length model suggests; possible, unstructive. It is perfectly I note but, save for this creams been and a jung Louis AHL is of voicet in an odd i musious, quiet, retined. Su much fur 

most enquisitely embroidered in gray, and broadcloth this time.

GOWN BY LAFERRIERE OF WHITE BROADCLOTH, EMBROIDERED NET AND ERINGE. A COSTUME OF EMBROIDERED GRAY SILK NET WITH A

skirt the emiroidery of flower and foliage lesson reached for above the once. The short bodies, foo, above the velvet gardie the little slagues were of creates been over which felt loops of gray veives, and the quittings was also of box.

Places in how wonder budget by the residence in a gray co-culture whose rolor spile per visuals. bases constrained to the ours, make a branch it be, by even a shadow of a shade, to rain | mindreal, | Cheshfigh brown, light bromes or olive | triffs vivid.

The skirt is of minos gray chiffen broad-

and continues down the entire length of coming a musting problem in Paris. One and of the simplest lines possible, but continues in marcon observations browns The coat belonge to the modified Empire

Directours class, which is the outcome of the Empire mades upon which this maker has insisted for several seasons past, but the lines are particularly good and the model not, like most of the Empire street Province too bissarre to please a factidious

walkers girdle, from which the long ones. turb full are all in brown, matrixing the costs. but there is a delightful little waste. cru the color harmonics and so easy would mad gray said braid. The culls match the

> The red is very light such bright but has grows, quick stiver and gray it vogitals